

REMARKS

In the Official Action of September 23, 2009 the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 1, 2, and 18–20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Secker U.S. Patent 5,188,108, and claims 18 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goor et al in view of Secker.

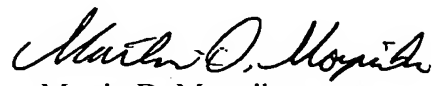
All the remaining claims were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In order to facilitate the acceptance of the application, the claims have been amended to conform to what the Examiner indicated would be allowable.

Thus, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, thereby in effect rewriting claim 3 in independent form, as well as rendering moot the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112; claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1, thereby in effect rewriting claim 15 in independent form; claim 19 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 21, thereby in effect rewriting claim 21 in independent form; and claim 31 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 19, thereby in effect rewriting claim 31 in independent form. In addition, claims 2, 3, 20 and 21 have been cancelled.

It is believed, therefore, that the application is now in condition for allowance, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin D. Moynihan
Registration No. 40,338

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Enclosure:

- Additional Claims Transmittal Fee